

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
June 13, 2017

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:30 p.m.

**INVOCATION:** President Hardaway asked for a moment of silence.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** All members were present.

**PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:**

President Hardaway provided a recap from a letter submitted by residents of the 300 block of 54<sup>th</sup> Ave. They thanked Mr. Lake, as well as the Town Council for completion of a Stormwater drainage project and also the pavement of the street.

A request was received from The Crossroads Regional Chamber of Commerce asking for the waiver of permit fees for the remodel of the new office space. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. Mr. Pettit commented that the Chamber moved to a new location and the old building was sold to new owners therefore not leaving a vacant building. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

A request was received from Aquinas Catholic Community School requesting the waiver of permit fees for a small interior construction project. Mr. Minchuk made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

A request was received from Merrillville Community School Corporation requesting the waiver of permit fees for the renovation project at Merrillville Intermediate School. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

The Town received a request for approval of a large gathering permit for the St. Constantine & Helen Grecian Festival. Mr. Minchuk made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

The Town received a request for approval of a large gathering permit for St. Elijah Serbian Festival. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

President Hardaway congratulated Merrillville Court department for a successful truancy graduation.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated June 13, 2017. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of May 23, 2017. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**BUDGET & FINANCE:**

Mr. Spires and Mr. Guernsey have been working on different concepts related to the Budget. Mr. Pettit proceeded to read these recommendations/suggestions for the Budget. Discussion followed.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

Mr. Minchuk had no report. Mr. Pettit provided an update regarding the repair work at the railroad tracks on 62<sup>nd</sup>. They anticipate the crossing to be reopened on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. President Hardaway commented on trains parking and blocking Hendricks Street and said a conversation needs to take place to resolve this matter.

**COUNCIL AFFAIRS:**

Mrs. Uzelac provided information regarding the status of the ongoing Daycare project as well as the related ordinance that was developed for this matter. Some discussion followed.

**PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:**

Mrs. Barron had no report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Mrs. Uzelac provided an update related to the issues of mailboxes being knocked down and vehicles speeding in the area of 78th Ave. Mrs. Uzelac thanked Chief Petruch for assigning extra patrols to this location and apprehending the responsible parties. Chief Petruch commended his officers for an outstanding job with this matter. He went on to praise the Detectives Bureau for their diligent work which led to solving three robberies that occurred around Town. Mrs. Uzelac relayed the latest information for the Crescent Lake matter. President Hardaway praised the Police Department and commended them for doing a good job on a daily basis. President Hardaway encouraged the Town Council and residents to inform the Police Department of any unusual activity within the neighborhoods, large amount of foot traffic as well as reporting vacant/abandoned properties.

Attorney Bushemi provided a report related to the amendment of the Superior Ambulance contract concerning eligible expenses for profit sharing. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Minchuk. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**PARKS & RECREATION:**

Ms. LaMarca referred to Jan Orlich for a report. Ms. Orlich said the playground is being installed at Southbrook Park. She provided an update on the closing of Jennings Park as well as the removal of infected trees located at Rosenbalm Park. Ms. Orlich thanked Public Works for their assistance.

Ms. Orlich thanked Mr. Bushemi for the review of the agreement between The Arsh Group and Town of Merrillville regarding the feasibility study. Once the agreement has been signed by both parties, a notification to proceed will be provided. Ms. Orlich announced the chosen members of the advisory committee and mentioned there will be 4 upcoming meetings.

The Merrillville Park Department is issuing a "Call for Artists". They are looking for artists that will paint a mural on the Erie Lakawanna Trail north of 93rd Ave just before you enter the tunnel under Rt.30 leading to Schererville. Renderings are due to the Merrillville Park and Recreation Dept. 5750 Tyler St. Merrillville, IN. 46410 by Friday July 7, 2017 at 3pm. Artist stipend \$600 and \$750 for supplies.

Mr. Minchuk discussed an issue taking place at Stefek Park and requested that additional safety precautions to be implemented. Some discussion followed.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:**

Mrs. Barron referred to Matt Lake for a report. Mr. Lake provided Stormwater updates regarding multiple drainage improvement projects occurring around Town.

**ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:**

Ms. LaMarca had no report.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Mr. Pettit provided the Town Council with detailed information regarding 2 proposed tax abatement petitions that were discussed at a prior Economic Development Committee meeting. The first tax abatement petition is for a new hospital that will be going in on the south side of 93<sup>rd</sup> Ave and the other request is from a laundry facility located on 86<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Pettit anticipates the resolutions for these petitions to be read at the next Town Council meeting.

**UTILITY LIAISON:**

Mr. Spann had no report.

**ABANDONED PROPERTIES:**

President Hardaway said we received appraisals back for the location of 55<sup>th</sup> Ave and all of the properties on Broadway. The next step will be to accept sealed bids on the properties.

**GENERAL ORDERS:**

**FIRST READING ORDINANCES:**

**Ord. 17-08:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana amending Ordinance 09-03 for Charges of False Fire Calls. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

**Ord. 17-10:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana appropriating additional monies within the Motor Vehicle Highway Fund for the year 2017 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

**Ord. 17-11:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana repealing Ordinance 84-21 concerning the establishment of a Municipal Cumulative Capital Development Fund and re-establishing the Municipal Cumulative Capital Development Fund to allow it to be used for all lawful purposes set forth in I.C. 36-9-15.5. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

**SECOND READING ORDINANCES:**

None

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Res. 17-14:** A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana authorizing the extension of current temporary loans to December 31, 2017. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**BZA ACTIONS:**

None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Council Workshop, June 20, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Plan Commission meeting, June 20, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, June 21, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Abandoned Blighted Properties Committee meeting, June 22, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.

Town Council meeting, June 27, 2017, at 6:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mrs. Barron made a motion to adjourn was seconded by Ms. LaMarca.

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**Richard Hardaway, President**

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**Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer**